

Link Letter No.3 December 2012

Dear friends,

It is November now, just a little more than a month to the Christmas festivities. So we all want to say: **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

The year has been and gone so quickly and as always, we are very thankful to God for each one of you who have made this adventure a team effort. Day by day we are truly convinced that as Christians we do not stand alone in the world but that we work together, supporting, encouraging and challenging each other. Thank you very much for your faithfulness over the years; despite the distance we have always felt very much part of each others lives.

We have been preaching through the book of Zechariah in Gomez Carreño, which has been very interesting. One thing that has been an encouragement to us is that when it seemed that the project of rebuilding the temple was going badly Zechariah received different visions which can be summed up by the words in 4.6: *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit."* That's how the opposition to rebuilding will be overcome. This is an encouragement that all that we hope may happen in Valparaiso ultimately doesn't depend on us but on the activity of God Himself.

Alpha



Daniel and Ellelein Kirk
CMS mission partners
Chile

Here is our news:

Church plant

IPA (Iglesia Pablo Apóstol) has continued to meet every other week to plan, train, pray and spend time together as a core team. Last Saturday the Alpha weekend took place. It was a wonderful time for the whole team and invitees, and at least one of them gave her life to Christ. Dan has continued to send updates of this church planting initiative and we are grateful for your prayers and comments.

Daniel

Dan has started a men's group on Saturday with IPA's core team. The idea is to talk through issues to do with masculinity that will aid the young men to become mature Christians, heads of their household and leaders in general. Diego Pacheco is co-leading this course, working now as his apprentice or as they call it here *Gimnasta*. You could find out more about Gimnasio (the apprentice programme) @ <http://gimnasionacional.cl>

His course at the CEP (*Centro de Estudios Pastorales*: the Anglican bible college) continues until the end of November, so he has kept himself busy preparing classes and marking essays on latinamerican church history.

He has also attended a couple of training sessions of "Gimnasio" which have been very helpful as they have laid out some useful strategies to help the apprentice (and trainer!) grow in godliness and leadership.

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At the beginning of December, Dan is organising a music retreat with some other Christian music leaders to discuss and equip sung worship teams with useful tools to continue and develop their ministries. One of the main tasks will be reviewing song lyrics and encouraging musicians to produce more Latin American music, instead of just translating it. *Brilla Jesús (Shine Jesus Shine)* recently arrived in our local church!

A pastor for Gómez Carreño has now been confirmed and the PCC has thanked Dan for all his help running the church and also for all the negotiation process into getting this new pastor. This person is a blind pastor, who although only recently ordained as deacon, has a lot of experience pastoring a congregation and is well known by our church community. We are thankful for his appointment and we feel relieved that there will be somebody in charge of the church when we leave for Valparaiso next year.

Next Saturday Dan is preaching at Rodrigo and Evelyn's wedding. We finished the marriage preparation three weeks ago and the time has come for this lovely couple to become husband and wife. It is rather special that they will be the first couple to sign the *Iglesia Pablo Apostol's* registry book!

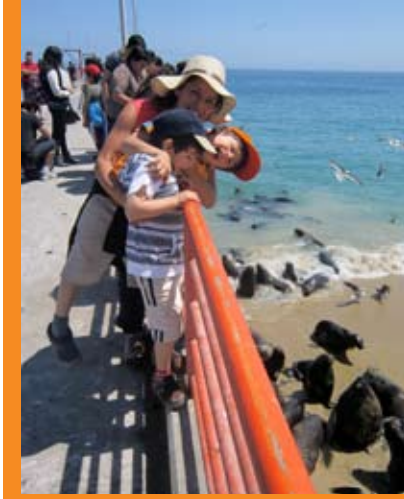
Daniel's discipleship group in Valpo continues strong and is a joy to be able to share and learn together more about our wonderful and mighty God.

Ellelein's news...

Ellelein has been quite busy with the children's end of year activities, especially as Daniel has been in Santiago a lot recently. On December 20 she is organising IPA's women's retreat which will be based on Titus 2. It will also be a great time to laugh, share and pray together with the women in the group.

Next week Ellelein is starting a discipleship group with another three women, which will run for about six months. This is something she thoroughly enjoys as it allows her to develop closer friendships, learn more about God and learn scripture by heart. It is also a wonderful opportunity to share in a deeper way, the love of God in our lives by rejoicing in how our hearts are transformed by His Spirit.

Finally, Ellelein has also been invited to be one of the speakers next year for the Interdenominational Women's conference LAEL in Santiago. So she is also reading and developing ideas for this event, which started this year with 130 women.



The children feeding the sea lions

David and Josh

They have been busy at school. Joshua has taken part in a show for grandparents, which was attended by his surrogate grandmother, a lovely Chilean lady who enjoyed it thoroughly. David had a great time at the British schools maths contest where he represented St Paul's. The thing that he enjoyed the most was making new friends.

Thanksgiving and prayer points:

- Give thanks for all the enthusiasm of the church planting team, their commitment and joyfulness at serving and spreading the gospel. Long may it last!
- We had the pleasure of having Brenda Darke – a lovely lady who is a missionary in Costa Rica – staying with us for a few days. We also had Luke and Mary Foster stay, a fantastic couple who are exploring the possibility of coming to work in Chile in the bible college in the future. Both were a blessing and an encouragement to us.
- Pray for Alpha – for the people attending this course to continue attending and for house groups to be able to come out from it.
- Pray for a place for us in Valparaiso as we plan to move in March. May we find a good place with a good rent!
- Pray for all the different seminars, retreats and conferences we are involved in; pray that we are able to shine out with God's love to others.
- Pray for IPA's summer camp, in the planning stage at present.
- Pray for Ellelein's nana who is now walking albeit slowly. Pray also for her sister who is working at nights, to be able to look after her during the day.

God bless

Daniel and Ellelein

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